

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1 – 12 and 18 – 24 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 18 are independent.

In the present amendment, claims 1 and 18 – 22 are amended. The support for the claim amendments may be found in Applicants' specification, for example, page 14, lines 4 – 7. No new matter is added.

35 U.S.C. 102

The Office action rejects claims 1, 2, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Kimura et al. (hereinafter Kimura), US Patent 6,518,962.

Applicants submit that for at least the following reasons, claims 1, 2, 18 and 19 are patentable over Kimura.

For example, claim 1, in part, requires:

“means for controlling the at least one drive transistor of each pixel individually in dependence on a respective input signal providing a drive level for the pixel and in dependence on the overall brightness level.”

Applicants submit that Kimura's voltage control circuit 22a does not control the at least one drive transistor of each pixel individually in dependence on a respective input signal providing a drive level. This is because Kimura's voltage control circuit 22a adjusts the output voltage (V_{com}) of the common electrode driving circuit 13 (column 21, lines 59 – 61). Therefore, Kimura fails to disclose the claimed feature: means for controlling individually the at least one drive transistor of each pixel in dependence on a respective input signal providing a drive level for the pixel and in dependence on the overall brightness level.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Kimura.

Similarly, independent claim 18, in part, requires:

“controlling the at least one drive transistor of each pixel individually in

dependence on a respective input signal providing a drive level for the pixel and in dependence on the overall brightness level.”

Applicants essentially repeat the above arguments for claim 1 and apply them to claim 18 pointing out why Kimura fails to disclose the above claimed feature. Therefore, for at least the above reasons, claim 18 is patentable over Kimura.

Claims 2 and 19 respectively depend from and inherit all the respective features of claims 1 and 18. Thus claims 2 and 19 are patentable for at least the reason that they respectively depend from claims 1 and 18, with each claim containing further distinguishing features. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 103

Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) the Office Action rejects claims 3, 5 – 7, 20 and 23 over Kimura in view of Mori, US Publication 2003/0025718; claims 4 and 22 over Kimura; claims 8, 21 and 24 over Kimura in view of Feldman et al., US Patent 6,582,980; and claims 9 – 12 over Kimura, in view of Feldman, and further in view of Murai et al., JP Application JP 2001-1305511 A.

Applicant submits that none of the cited secondary references can cure the defects present in Kimura as discussed above for claims 1 and 18. Claims 3 – 12 and 20 – 24 respectively depend from and inherit all the features of claims 1 and 18. Thus claims 3 – 12 and 20 – 24 are patentable for at least the reason that they respectively depend from claims 1 and 18, with each claim containing further distinguishing features. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3 – 12 and 20 – 24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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